

Comments On HB7027 - Proposed Pistol Permit Fee Increases

Please **withhold DESPP support** and **strongly oppose** Section 48 (T1854) and Section 58 (T1938) of H.B. 7027 that would support Governor Malloy's proposed pistol permit rate increase.

As a responsible firearms owner with a valid pistol permit, I did not oppose the previous rate increases (2009, I believe). One of the justifications for that increase was that the state should be made whole on necessary permitting, and that is understandable. As a responsible citizen, I do not want to be an imposition on others, and expect to pay the costs to live in the community that I have chosen.

The reasoning for this increase cannot be justified on the grounds that it costs the state more to issue the permit than the applicants pay. CT spending is out of control, with alarming debt, and no thoughtfully implemented efforts at the state level to live within our collective means. Since the state budget problems have not been caused by pistol permit holders in the state, how is it reasonable to ask us to accept a 400% increase?

The reality is Governor Malloy's proposed fee increase will provide only the wealthy with the opportunity to exercise of a universal freedom expressed in the CT state constitution. This is a blatant assault on all CT residents, and it is difficult to understand how anyone would support this effort.

The CT residents most impacted by this increase will be those on fixed incomes, the elderly, single moms, veterans, and the broad range of low & middle income taxpayers. Put another way, everyone except "the 1%". If the working class, elderly, and veterans the groups that Governor Malloy say are so important to the state, this proposed increase is a curious way to show it.

To go after the person who works hard and pays taxes because you don't agree with their personal choices that are protected by the CT state constitution is just plain wrong. CT citizens that choose to exercise their 2nd amendments rights often exemplify the best of our communities. Please protect the universal human right of self-protection, and do not participate in further eroding the freedoms so many have sacrificed so much to provide for us all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joe Sanders
Wallingford, CT